

MEMORIAL

OF SUNDRY PERSONS,

MERCHANT TAILORS, OF PHILADELPHIA,

PRAYING THAT

ADDITIONAL DUTY BE LAID ON READY MADE CLOTHING.

APRIL 28, 1828.

Referred to the Committee on Manufactures, and ordered to be printed.

WASHINGTON:

PRINTED BY DUFF GREEN.

1828.

MEMORIAL.

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the
United States, in Congress assembled;*

The memorial of the undersigned, Merchant Tailors, of the City of
Philadelphia,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH:

That your memorialists are greatly alarmed by the provisions of the bill for the regulation of the Tariff, now pending before you, which, in its present form, appears to threaten the existence of their business, and to annihilate the hopes of subsistence of many thousand persons, who are employed and supported by the trade.

Your memorialists, although silent, have not been insensible of the various laws which have, from time to time, been passed by Congress, materially affecting their business. They knew they were under the protection of a government of the people, instituted to promote the general welfare. And, although, at the last revision of the Tariff, the duty on ready made clothing was stationary, while that on the material was advanced, they submitted without complaint, confiding in the wisdom of the government. Nothing but impending ruin now urges them to this remonstrance, and they trust they will not ask in vain for a hearing.

They cannot believe that the effect of the pending bill upon them, has been perceived by any. They are slow to believe that Congress, in violation of the principle of the bill, would willingly destroy a branch of domestic industry, indispensable to civilization, which stands in the way of none, which gives employment to decrepitude, otherwise helpless, and support to indigent females, by one of the few trades in which they can be suitably employed, to drain the country of money to nourish and support that foreign skill and industry which they are struggling to rival, and all this at the expense of a most serious diminution of the revenue.

When the duty was raised, by the act of 1824, to 30 per cent. ad valorem on all goods above the value of 33 $\frac{1}{2}$ cents per square yard, that on ready made clothing was suffered to remain at 30 per cent, which abolished the protection which the manufacture at home had previously enjoyed; but no complaint was made, as the trade could still compete, on nearly equal terms, with the foreign artist.

If the present bill should unfortunately pass without reference to the duty on ready made clothing, foreign fabrics, instead of being imported in the piece, to be made into clothing, will be imported ready made;

and it will not be surprising if the enormous profits which the saving of duty alone will give, should turn half the capital now employed in the import of such fabrics, into ready made clothing.

By the present bill, your petitioners understand that a duty per square yard is contemplated, of 20 cents on goods not exceeding the value of 50 cents per square yard; of 40 cents not exceeding \$1; of \$1 not exceeding \$2 50; and of \$1 60 not exceeding \$4; and of 45 per cent. ad valorem on all goods exceeding the value of \$4 per square yard. It will, therefore, follow, that cloth of the value of \$1 01 will pay the same duty as that of the value of \$2 50, being \$1 per square yard; whereas, in ready made clothing, the same cloth will pay a duty of 30 cents: thus saving 70 cents, or seven-tenths of the duty of cloth unmade. Cloth of the value of \$2 51 will pay the same duty as if it were worth \$4, being \$1 60 per square yard; whereas the same cloth, in the shape of ready made clothing, will pay a duty of 75 cents: thus saving 85 cents per square yard, or more than one-half of the duty. On all cloths above the value of four dollars per square yard, the duty of 45 per cent. ad valorem, will leave a saving to the importers of ready made clothing of 33½ per cent. on the amount of duties.

Profits as enormous as these savings from government would constitute, must operate as a bounty on foreign industry, which domestic industry could not compete with, even if they should do their work gratuitously, and soon open a trade in ready made clothing to an extent never before thought of.

It therefore becomes your memorialists, most respectfully, to warn the government of the evils which an omission to make a correspondent alteration in the duty, on ready made clothing, would entail on it as well as themselves, and to submit the case to your wisdom. And your memorialists, as in duty bound, &c. &c.

PHILADELPHIA, *April 25, 1828.*